

## CLAIMS

1. In a computer system including a plurality of nodes accessing common data in a data storage system, wherein each one of said nodes maintains archived redo logs in local files for that node, a method of backing up said common data from any one of said nodes, comprising:
  - selecting a node for performing a backup operation;
  - setting said archived redo logs in local files on each of said nodes to be read and write accessible to at least said selected backup node;
  - informing said selected backup node of the names of said archived redo logs; and
  - on said selected backup node, running a backup utility which backs up said common data and said archived redo logs for said computer system.
2. The method of claim 1 further including setting said archived redo logs in local files on each of said nodes to be read and write accessible across all of said nodes.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said archived redo logs in local files on each of said nodes are set to be read and write accessible through mounting with a network file system (NFS), using the same name each of said nodes.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said archived redo logs are created with names which allows a backup or recover utility to identify which node an archived redo log belongs.
5. The method of claim 1 further including:
  - before said step of running a backup utility which backs up said common data and said archived redo logs for said computer system, shutting down access to said common data.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein said backup utility allows for user-supplied scripts for shutting down access to said common data.